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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 4TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Report: UW System Adds over 6,000 New Staff with No Increase in Students

Analysis highlights funding and staffing at UW System over time

Madison, WI— State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) released the following statement in response to a recent memo provided by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau which detailed important UW System-related data. Findings focused on student-to-staff ratios and state funding per student over time.

“Only in government would you witness a 6,000 person staffing increase in an organization with no new customers. If the UW System wants the Legislature and taxpayers to take their massive \$855 million budget increase seriously, they’ll need to provide much more than flowery talking points,” said Rep. Steffen.

Data provided by the Fiscal Bureau noted that the student-to-staff ratio was 5.7 in the 1992-93 school year, but dropped to 4.7 in the 2022-23 school year—while the number of enrolled students in these years were the same, the number of staff increased by more than 6,000. Additionally, during that same time period, state funding and tuition per FTE student significantly increased.

“In dissecting the UW System’s budget request, it will be critical for them to justify the need for such a historic boost given the increases in state funding and tuition over time. Certainly, the decision to increase staffing without corresponding increases in enrollment raises questions,” said Rep. Steffen.

For more information please contact the office of Representative Steffen at (608)237-9104 or by email at Rep.Steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov.

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